

**DISPATCH**

**SECRET**

*C/EUR*  
PROCESSING ACTION

TO: *C*  
INFO: *C*  
FROM: *C*  
SUBJECT: *C* Interest in Raul Wallenberg Case  
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

MARKED FOR INDEXING

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ONLY USE IF INDEXING

AND INDEXING REQUIRED

NO INDEXING

*IS COPY FILED*

Reference: EGRA-69678, of 13 July 1970

Attached hereto is a note for *C* to which is  
appended a memorandum regarding Karl-Gustav SVINGEL, concerning  
whom *C* queried me on 7 July 1970.

Attachment:  
Letter and Memo - USC/

Distribution:  
2 - *C* w/att  
2 - *C* w/att  
2 - C/EUR w/att

3 August 1970

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

*CCRY*

*201-05925*

CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

EGRA- 89953  
CLASSIFICATION

**SECRET**

DATE

NOI FILE NUMBER

August 3, 1970

Dear Carl Axel,

I'm sure I don't need to tell you how much I enjoyed seeing you on 7 July, and meeting your colleague. I only wish I could have been more helpful to you at that time.

I attach a brief note on Svingel, which probably doesn't add very much to what you already know about him. As far as we are aware, Svingel is not engaged in activities other than those which are publicly known. (Quite honestly, we had long thought that your sister service might have been using him, since he does have interesting connections in the East.)

Please let me know if you feel there is anything further I might be able to do to assist you in this matter. As I mentioned in Hamburg, I am hoping to get up to Scandinavia in the fall, and would greatly enjoy seeing you again at that time. Meanwhile, very best wishes!

3 August 1970

**SUBJECT:** Karl Gustav Svingel  
Born: 31 March 1916, Ljårtum, Sweden  
Commissioned Representative of the Swedish  
National Committee of the Lutheran World  
Council in West Berlin

1. Svingel has resided in Berlin since 1954, when he gave up a career as an opera singer to become a professional social service worker. He now resides at 5 Winklerstrasse, Berlin Grunewald, in a large villa ("Haus Victoria") where needy elderly persons are cared for and housed for brief periods of time. He also makes these premises available to a group of attorneys and West German officials who are involved in the official program of the West German Government to secure the release of political prisoners from the East in return for cash ransom payments. This involves providing lodgings and food for persons who are brought from the East in cases where no publicity is desired, or when the attorneys wish to avoid formal processing at the West Berlin Refugee Center.

2. Svingel has close personal ties with West German SPD leader Herbert Wehner and the latter's family, presumably emanating from Wehner's close political contacts in Sweden. Svingel has used these connections to assist prisoner exchange attorneys Wolfgang Vogel, the latter's West Berlin counterpart, Juergen Stange, and Reymar von Wedel (a West German Protestant lay official with leftist connections, who is involved in prisoner exchange and ransom matters on behalf of the German Lutheran Church) in by-passing lower echelons of the German bureaucratic structure in order to keep the prisoner exchange and ransom program in operation. Svingel concentrates primarily on family reunification cases, which he handles through Vogel. These are arranged for private persons in a position to make the high ransom payments which are involved.

3 August 1970

Page 2

3. Svingel, who has claimed to have quasi-diplomatic status, travels regularly into East Berlin and through East Germany to Scandinavia. He has admitted to having brought out persons from East to West Berlin in his private car in what he described as a "purcly legal" manner. He is extremely reticent about discussing details of his activities and contacts in East Berlin, except to say that he is personally acquainted with East German State Secretary for Church Affairs Hans Seigewasser. It is known that he delivers various kinds of goods purchased in West Berlin to Vogel's offices in East Berlin. These appear to be destined for the church members in East Germany.

4. Svingel maintains close personal contacts with Vogel's divorced wife, Eva, whom the East German authorities permit to live in West Berlin with their two children, and whose apartment Vogel uses as his West Berlin base of operations. At one time Svingel arranged for Vogel's son to go to school in Sweden.

5. Svingel has been awarded the Grosse Verdienstkreuz des Verdienstordens by the German Federal Republic.

201-005925